result, the annual Central allocation has been raised from Rs. 1000 crore to Rs. 1400 crore per annum. The three groups of States are as under:-

Category A: Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, Manipur and Tripura.

Category B1 Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

Category B2: Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Goa, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

The police modernization related items which were admissible under the Scheme for Reimbursement of Security Related Expenditure (SRE) operated by the Internal Security Division of Ministry of Home Affairs have been merged with the MPF Scheme. Central funding for which will be 100% in respect of the Left-wing Extremist (LWE) affected districts of the concerned States, irrespective of whether the States fall in category A, B1 or B2 within the overall control assistance for these States.

The Scheme for Modernization of State Police Forces of the North East Division under which assistance was given in kind, as well as the items for police modernization included under the SRE Scheme of the Department of Jammu & Kashmir have also been merged with the MPF Scheme from 2003-04.

New Terrorist outfit M.D.F.

847. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the new terrorist outfit 'Muslim Defence Force' which is active in the country especially in the States of Mahrashtra and Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that recent bomb blasts in Mumbai are the outcome of this organization; and

(d) if so, the measures taken by Government to contain the activities of M.D.F.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) to (c) The Government is aware of the activities of the agents provocateurs using the banner of Muslim Defence Force. Some of these elements have been noticed to be involved in terrorists

activities in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. However, their involvement in the recent twin bomb blast in Mumbai on August 25, 2003 has not come to notice so far.

(d) The Central and State security and intelligence agencies have been taking all possible measures to curb the activities of disruptionist elements.

Anti-terrorism Force

848. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate anti-terrorism force trained to counter nuclear and chemical warfare;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering to train this force for specialised courses in Israel, UK and USA;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether these Governments have acceded to the proposal for training in their countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND): (a) and (b) Four Battalions of Central Para Military Forces have been earmarked for responding to terrorists attacks involving use of radioactive material and biological/chemical agents. The nodal training institutions have been identified and qualitative requirements (QRs), training faculty and the syllabus have been finalized. The training of trainers will commence from January 2004.

(c) to (e) The country has capabilities in training personnel for responding to such disasters. However, some personnel have also been trained in USA in certain aspects. If need be further specialized training may also be organized in countries having such capabilities.

Rehabilitation of victims of terrorism and communal violence

†849. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken so far by Government to solve the rehabilitation problem of helpless orphan children, widows and old persons in different

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.